



Waste~Less News

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Waste Management News for Southwest Washington

Ecology Department Finds Litter Problem Is Bigger Than Ever

Litter pickup crews for the state Department of Ecology are heading out again to begin their annual effort to remove the wintertime accumulation of litter from Washington's highway system.

Now in its 25th year, the Ecology Youth Corps employs teenagers from 14 to 17 years old to pick up litter on state roadways and in public areas. The efforts of EYC, along with crews from local community groups and the state departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, and Corrections, mean there are more people than ever working on the state's litter problem.

Despite this large cleanup effort (projected this year to reach four million pounds) a recent litter survey by Ecology showed that only 25 percent of litter on the roadways is being picked up.

According to Ecology officials, the results illustrate the need for a litter prevention strategy coordinated among state agencies, local governments, and businesses.

"Crews are picking up three times as much as they used to, but the trash is piling up on the highways faster than they can pick it up," said Cullen Stephenson, who manages Ecology's solid-waste program. "Sixteen million pounds of junk are littered each year. With that much litter out there, we can't keep pointing a finger at the next person. We all need to start taking responsibility."

"The study showed that people aren't aware of how big this problem really is, so curbing littering behavior is a bigger challenge than anyone initially thought," said Megan Thomas, litter-programs coordinator for Ecology.

The state cannot reach the legislatively set goal of zero litter through cleanup efforts alone, Stephenson noted. Reducing litter will involve educating the public about litter's negative social, financial, and environmental effects, and also doing more to enforce litter laws.

"Washington taxpayers spend millions each year on litter cleanup – and it's a problem that's almost completely avoidable," Stephenson said. "Every time someone throws something out their car window, they're throwing away money, too."

Facts:

- 16 million pounds of litter accumulate on state roadways each year.
- Six million additional pounds of litter accumulate in public areas, such as state and county parks and recreation areas.
- 65 tons of cigarette butts are littered each year on interstates, state routes, and county roads. That is 260,000,000 cigarette butts!
- More than a quarter of a million pounds, or 7,500 cubic yards of PET beverage containers, are littered on interstates, state routes, and county roads each year. While almost four million pounds of glass beverage containers are littered each year, they only represent 5,000 cubic yards.
- 415,000 pounds of paper packaging and 136,000 pounds of newspaper and magazines are littered on interstates, state routes, and county roads each year.
- 884 tons of tires and tire scraps, representing 88,400 passenger car tires, are littered each year in the sites included in this study.

A summary of Ecology's *Washington State Litter Report* is available on the Internet at
<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/biblio/0007022.html>

Waste Management News for Southwest Washington

HHW and CESQG Waste Handling "When have I been fully safety trained?"

by Dave Nightingale

There are many training opportunities regarding hazardous materials but how can you know when you have covered all the bases to operate an MRW collection activity safely? There is now a standard available that answers that question.

The ASTM (American Society for Testing of Materials) Standard Guide for Household Hazardous Waste Training Outline for HHW Collection Operations (ASTM D 6498) provides a set of topics and context for judging the need for initial and periodic training for those responsible for MRW operations. This guide was developed over a three-year period by a group of state, local, provincial, and business interests through a subcommittee of the ASTM Committee D-34 on Waste Management.

This new ASTM standard guide provides a basis to judge the completeness and appropriateness of health and safety training specific to those involved in MRW waste handling. Whether you supervise, provide administrative support, regulate, or work with MRW you can use this standard guide outline as a checklist and guide to provide yourself and those you work with the appropriate level and type of training most appropriate to your assignment. This is equally applicable to those that provide in-house health and safety training as well as those who purchase training from vendors.

The ASTM standard guide outline provides recommended initial baseline training as well as frequency of periodic training. The standard also covers the range of topics that may need to be covered in classroom as well as on-site, facility, and job-specific safety topics before an employee can be allowed to work without direct supervision. Training outline topics include: chemical and physical hazards, hazard awareness training, toxicology, industrial hygiene, OSHA rights and responsibilities, site safety, emergencies, standard operating procedures, exposure control, personal protection equipment, medical surveillance programs, and legal/regulatory requirements. The standard also includes appendixes on selected OSHA regulation list, selected DOT regulations list, and a list of reference documents that have been found useful by MRW operators.

This new ASTM standard (D 6498) was published in February 2000 and is available for \$30 from:

ASTM
100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959
(610) 832-9585 or e-mail: service@astm.org or www.astm.org

One of the resources used in preparing this standard was the MRW 24-hour Health and Safety Training Course originated in Washington and since adapted and used nationally.

Three-day MRW Operations Course Fills Gap In Health and Safety Training Needs!

In April at Olympia, 16 local solid waste staff spent three days in MRW Health and Safety Training provided by the NW Hazardous Waste Conference for Household and Small Business. This training has its roots in 1993 when Ecology's Jim Wavada (from our eastern regional office in Spokane) brought together a consortium of experts to fill a gap in available health and safety training for MRW operators.

This 24-hour training has been adapted as a regional course by the NW Hazardous Waste Conference as well as a national training course by SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) and NAHMMA (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association) at their annual conference. While this effort has been very effective and well received there has been no official standard by which to judge the completeness of the training received. The ASTM Standard Guide for Household Hazardous Waste Training Outline for HHW Collection Operations (ASTM D 6498) provides a set of topics and context for judging the need for initial and periodic training for those responsible for MRW operations.

One resource that was examined in the development of this ASTM standard was this course. It was found to contain the elements that constitute most of the training that is not job or site specific needed to train MRW waste handling staff. Facility and job specific training is always a part of any complete health and safety training and cannot be provided in a strictly classroom setting.

If you or your staff might be interested in attending the next MRW Health and Safety Training, please contact David Nightingale at (360) 407-6392 or by e-mail at dnig461@ecy.wa.gov

America Recycles Day

by Terri Washburn

America Recycles Day is a national recycling awareness day that has been celebrated since 1997. The purpose of the day is to increase public participation in recycling programs and to raise public awareness about the related issues of buying products made from recycled materials, reducing waste, reuse, and composting.

There are two ways this is accomplished. The first is when schools, municipalities, businesses, and non-profit organizations sponsor recycling related events to educate students, residents, and employees. These events take place from August through November. ***Last year 52 events were held in Washington.***

Second, individuals are encouraged to make written pledges to increase their recycling. These pledges qualify them (18 year old or older) for a drawing to win an American Green Dream Home built anywhere in the continental US. The first place prize for those under 18 is a trip for four to Walt Disney World including airfare, accommodations, and admission tickets. ***In 1999, over 10,000 adults and children in Washington made a pledge to increase their recycling!***

As part of our fourth annual celebration of America Recycles Day Washington, public, private, and home-schooled K-8 students are invited to participate in the America Recycles Day Washington 2001 calendar contest. Winners of the contest will be recognized in their communities, and at a reception held on November 15 in Olympia at the State Capitol Building. The winners will be mentioned at the November 26th Seahawks game and ads about recycling will appear in Husky and Seahawks programs. Recycling messages are expected to reach over 7,000 people.

In 1999, over 200 posters were submitted from all over the state. The 14 winning posters were included in a full-color calendar distributed to schools, local and state government officials, and sponsoring companies and organizations.

The year 2000 theme is the same as 1999, **“For Their Future, Recycle Today”**. All promotional materials, including the logo, will be available on CD-ROM. The steering committee will burn 38 copies to send out to interested recycling coordinators. The CD-ROM will include the planning guide, new tri-fold, teacher resource packet, and the logo. This will make it easier for local government education folks to manipulate the materials to best serve their community. Counties and cities are encouraged to reuse materials from last year, i.e. boxes, posters, etc.

Our state website, found at <http://www.americarecyclesday.wa.org> is currently being updated. Check out the contacts list to see who is the main contact in your area. If you have any questions, please call Terri Washburn at (360) 337-4472 or by e-mail at: Twashbur@MAIL1.CO.KITSAP.WA.US

Ecology Reviews Coordinated Prevention Grant Program

by Laurie Davies

The Department of Ecology is embarking on a comprehensive review of how Ecology grants are awarded and accounted for in preparation of the 2001-2003 Coordinated Prevention Grants cycle. As part of this review the Department will look at the regulations, as well as the grant guidelines to determine where improvements can be made. In particular, we are looking at reporting requirements, project eligibility, matching requirements, and allocation of funding.

An external advisory committee was organized with representation from large and small counties, public works departments, and health departments. The committee will meet six times over the next five months. Upon completion of the committee's work, Ecology will revise the guidelines, and most likely will have to make regulatory changes as well.

For more information regarding who is on the committee or how you can participate in the revision process, contact Randy Martin at (360) 407-6136 or by e-mail at: rama461@ecy.wa.gov

Supplemental Funding Distributed

by Mikel Baxter

The Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Team recently selected the recipients of more than \$600,000 that remained from the initial round of the Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG) funding cycle for 2000-2001. Only a small amount of money had been left outside the Solid Waste Enforcement (SWE) funding firewall. However, applications for enforcement projects only requested, or were eligible for, slightly over \$318,000. This allowed an additional \$313,000 for solid waste projects.

To ease administration requirements for both the Program and local governments, contracts for the supplemental funding were written as amendments to contracts already drawn for the original CPG/SWEs.

Solid Waste Enforcement Funding is granted primarily to health departments or districts. Each county department is allotted \$100,000 per biennium, and each Health District is eligible for \$150,000. The funds generally cover the regular enforcement activities:

1. Review of plans that have a potential impact on health
2. Permitting of solid waste facilities
3. Inspections
4. Solid waste complaints
5. Monitoring of ground water at closed landfill sites

Some counties will have additional projects that enhance preventative measures, establish or improve ordinances, or target a particular problem. Supplemental funding for SWE has been awarded to the following:

- Thurston County, Spokane Regional, and Bremerton-Kitsap health districts will each be applying the additional funding to absorb a greater percentage of their enforcement costs. In the larger counties and districts, the initial allotment is basically a small percentage of the enforcement budgets. The total of these projects is \$179,000.
- Illegal dumping problems were a target for many of the grant funds this biennium. Both Skagit and Pierce counties will be applying their additional funding to assess, enforce, and provide education on reducing the proliferation of irresponsible behaviors. The jurisdictions were awarded a total of \$90,000.
- The Snohomish County Health District will receive \$22,750 to cover attorney fees in the on-going enforcement on proper closure of the Sisco Landfill. This has been a long-standing issue for the County Health Department, and funds for legal pursuit have been difficult to acquire from general funds.
- Whatcom County Public Works will receive \$20,000 toward implementation of their new biomedical waste ordinance.
- The Chelan-Douglas Health District will receive \$6,830 to cover the revision of the SWE elements in their Sanitary Code. A primary benefit of the revisions will be indisputable enforcement authority for solid waste violations.

Solid Waste Plan Implementation funds are available to each planning jurisdiction, and are generally administered by Public Works departments. The amounts available are determined by a base rate plus a per capita allotment. In this category the following jurisdictions received supplemental funding to their original grants.

- Updating the comprehensive solid waste management plans is a required task that often slides down the to-do list as funding becomes tighter. Columbia-Walla Walla Regional and Franklin County both applied for funding to dedicate to the updates of their plans. The scale of the task is somewhat disproportionate to its importance, and a total of \$12,900 was awarded.
- At the other end of the scale are needs for facilities or facility improvements. Moderate Risk Waste (MRW) is the target of a large percentage of the CSWMP implementation funds. Chelan is embarking on construction of a facility with \$75,608. Kittitas is making improvements to its MRW facility for \$37,500, while Clark and Stevens counties will be receiving \$43,500 towards equipment for their MRW facilities. In Okanogan County, the Town of Twisp will be receiving \$75,000 to site a new recycling center that is a cooperative effort between the County, Methow Valley Conservancy and School District, U.S. Forest Service, a local utility, and numerous individuals in the community.

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- Increased opportunities to recycle fluorescent lighting elements initiated two other projects. *Snohomish County* will use \$18,000 to establish and implement a fluorescent bulb collection program, while *Thurston County* Water and Waste Management will be implementing a system to reclaim mercury from the lamps.
- Many of the smaller projects will enhance existing elements of solid waste programs. *Jefferson County* Health Department, in a cooperative arrangement with the county's Public Works Department, will augment Small Quantity Generator outreach and service. *Kitsap County* will be building demonstration gardens in partnership with a local Water District. *Spokane* has received funding for classroom recycling bins, and *Yakima* will be updating their very successful Away-With-Waste curriculum.

Four applications were deemed ineligible, which is an unpleasant call for staff on the Financial Assistance Team. The projects certainly had merit, and it is hoped that the applicants are able to find alternative funding. Ecology would like to thank all the jurisdictions which applied. This process was facilitated by timely submissions, clear expression of the needs, and careful planning of the individual projects.

Recycling Assessment Panel Continuing Its Work

by Don Seeberger

The Recycling Assessment Panel members are experimenting with a new method to discuss strategies for improving the state's recycling rate. An electronic bulletin board has been set up for panel members to share issues, opinions, and solutions. Panel members are being sent several issue papers that outline ideas that could shift or change the focus of the work SW&FAP is currently doing. The issue papers are posted on the bulletin board where panel members can respond with their ideas and comments. Other panelist can read and respond to the postings, creating a dynamic opportunity to stay current on evolving issues between panel meetings.

The first issue paper sent to the panelist asked them to prioritize their recommendations. After ranking the recommendations the information was tallied for the entire panel. The top three recommendations were:

- Focus on increasing commercial recycling
- Building long-term sustainable markets
- Raising awareness statewide (information and awareness)

The priority list will be used by SW&FAP's managers to begin the process of selecting issues to be addressed in a legislative request. SW&FAP is also redirecting staff time and resources to implement many panel recommendations.

One of Ecology's efforts will be to work with the **Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA)** and **Washington Refuse and Recycling Association (WRRRA)** to look for methods for increasing commercial recycling. Several roundtable discussions are being planned throughout the state to focus on commercial recycling.

The first roundtable will be held in Port Townsend on August 11th from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pope Marine Building, 181 Quincy. The sessions are designed to give local businesses and opportunity to voice their concerns and questions related to recycling options available in their area. Locations and times for the other roundtable meetings will announced later. If you have any question, please contact Don Seeberger at (425) 649-7218.

Lewis County "Dump Stoppers"

Illegal dumping is on the minds of many local governments. It has become a bigger and bigger issue leaving local health departments and private landowners with the job of cleaning up the dumpsites as well as footing the bill. Millions of dollars are spent annually by private landowners and taxpayers for the investigation, prosecution, and cleanup of illegal dumpsites. The Olympic National Forest ranger station in Hoodspport recently reported the burden of cleaning up a three-mile stretch of one of the Park roads. There were *six tons* of debris, necessitating more than \$1,500 in salaries and equipment, and almost \$700 in tipping fees.

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One jurisdiction in Southwest Washington decided to tackle this difficult problem head on. In 1992, Lewis County conducted an eight-week survey and found some 175 cubic yards (approximately 18 dump truck loads) of all types of illegally dumped waste; household garbage, yard waste, construction debris, appliances, scrap tires, auto hulks, and animal carcasses. A survey of timberland owners reported having to remove up to 10 tons of illegally dumped material per year from their properties.

Frustrated by minimal ordinance enforcement, the Lewis County Environmental Services Division, Sheriff's Department, and private landholders formed an Illegal Dumping Task Force to explore solutions to the problem. They decided that the best solution was to increase public awareness and support and to encourage the reporting of illegal dumping activities.

Joining with the local *Crime Stoppers* organization, the task force created the ***Dump Stoppers*** program. Through this program citizens are encouraged to call an 800 number to report illegal dumping or call 911 to report any dumping currently in progress. This program is marketed to law abiding citizens to help minimize health risks and to avoid loss of access to private lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. Callers may remain anonymous and will be eligible for rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest or the filing of charges.

Signs were placed at the entrances of many private and public forest land access roads, as well as known illegal dumping areas. Since 1992, Lewis County staff have logged in over 550 illegal dumping complaints, about 400 of which have been through *Dump Stoppers*. The average is around 74 per year, with the bulk of the calls coming in around the summer recreation season through elk hunting season, (the end of June through early December).

The solve rate is around 47% (cases where county staff are able to determine the perpetrator). Perpetrators must clean up the waste and transport it to a permitted solid waste facility, and provide a receipt as proof the job has been done. About 11% of cases need to be cited for failure to remove the waste. That leaves 32% of illegal dumping cases for which there is no evidence linking a perpetrator to the crime. In these cases, the Community Litter Cleanup Program monies are used, utilizing Trustees from the Lewis County Jail, and a full time Supervisor.

When asked how the program is working for the county, Chris Cooper of the Environmental Health Division replied, "The reporting of the incidents has increased ten fold. The sheer magnitude of reports proves that the idea of 'cultivating the narc factor' through the stories we share with the media is effective. Realization that the public's access to lands is being increasingly restricted due to the costs of cleaning up litter and dumps, has been a significant factor in keeping honest people honest, as well as keeping me, the Sheriff's Office, and the Crime Stoppers Board very active! The success of the program is better than ever now due to the ability to access the Litter Program for illegal dump cleanup. This means preventing a dumpsite from attracting more waste to be deposited. Property owners who leave their lands open to public enjoyment, especially the large timber managers, are generally more than willing to cover the tipping fees and equipment, in exchange for the inmate crew labor, garbage bags, and transportation to the transfer station."

For more information about Lewis County's ***Dump Stoppers*** program contact Chris Cooper by calling (360) 740-1413, or by e-mail at CKCooper@co.lewis.wa.us

Ecology Revises Open-Burning Rule

Outdoor air will be even safer to breathe now that the Department of Ecology has finished a two-year effort to revise its open-burning regulation. The revised rule (scheduled to take effect on April 13) addresses all types of outdoor burning except agricultural and silvicultural (forest management) burning. The updated rule incorporates recent changes to the state Clean Air Act. Among other things, the new rule prohibits residential and land-clearing burning in the urban growth areas of large cities by the end of this year, as required by the act.



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The rule also sets forth a community-based process for identifying areas with a reasonable alternative to burning where state law requires that burning also be prohibited.

Outdoor burning emits fine particles, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons into the air, all of which are harmful to health. The pollutants are especially harmful to pregnant women, young children, the elderly, people with heart and respiratory illnesses, and people who exert themselves outdoors where emissions are present. Microscopic particles, present even when the air may not appear smoky, lodge deep in the lungs and damage the delicate air sacs.

Washington's Clean Air Act began phasing out residential and land-clearing burning in 1991, beginning in areas with air-quality problems. By December 31, 2000, the phase-out extends to all cities with a population over 10,000 and to the urban-growth areas for cities with populations over 5,000. Under the new rule, land-clearing burning will also be prohibited by the same deadline in any adjacent areas with a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile.

Also by December 31, local air-quality agencies and Ecology (in cooperation with county governments) must identify areas where a reasonable alternative to outdoor burning exists. If an area has a reasonable alternative to a particular type of outdoor burning, that type of burning will no longer be allowed. By December 31, 2006, the ban on residential and land-clearing burning will extend to all remaining urban growth areas. Land-clearing burning will be prohibited in all remaining areas with a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile.

Natural vegetation remains the legal fuel for outdoor burning. The revised rule does not change the existing ban on burning garbage or other materials that produce excessive smoke, obnoxious odors, or toxic emissions. The regulation clarifies that construction and demolition debris, including lumber scraps, may not be burned.

Containers used for outdoor burning must be brick or concrete; steel burn barrels may no longer be used. Tumbleweed burning in most counties and residential burning in the rural parts of less-populated counties will not require a permit. Permits may be issued for storm or flood-debris burning in cases of declared emergencies, even in areas where residential and land-clearing burning are banned. The changes also clarify that the rule does not apply on Indian reservations, except by intergovernmental agreements. Local clean-air agencies may adopt additional or more-stringent requirements to meet air quality needs in their communities.

The revised rule, 173-425 WAC, titled "Outdoor Burning," and other information can be viewed on the Internet at: <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/leg/activity/wac173425.html>
Additional details are available at: <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/air/Open-Burning-FAQ4.htm>
For more information contact Bruce Smith, air-quality planner, at (360) 407-6889.

Waste-Less News appears quarterly. The Southwest Regional Office of the Department of Ecology is solely responsible for the accuracy of the information contained herein. Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs, contact Shelly McClure at (360) 407-6398 (Voice) or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

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West Side Solid Waste Meeting Announcement

Date: August 16th
Time: 10:00a.m-1:00 p.m.
Location: Ecology's Bellevue Regional Office

Directions can be downloaded by visiting our website at
http://www.wa.gov/ecology/images/offices/map_nwro.gif

Please RSVP to Don Seeberger at dsee461@ecy.wa.gov or by calling (425) 649-7218.

Ecology is hosting the next West Side solid waste meeting to gather input on the development of a litter prevention program using the data from the recent statewide litter survey as a guide. We need your help answering questions like, what will prevent people from littering? And, What is the most efficient way for the state to coordinate efforts with local government? Janet Nazy, WSRA executive director, will be giving us a update on WSRA, their new **501 (c)(3)** non-profit status and the future of a public recycling education campaign.

The Waste-Less News should not create waste. If we need to make changes to our mailing list, please contact Shelly McClure at (360) 407-6398. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail please send a message to: smcc461@ecy.wa.gov with the subject line reading, "Please add me to the e-mail distribution list for Waste-Less News".

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